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Inside Today

International



John Major discussed assistance from the Group of Seven to USSR and individual republics during his visit to Moscow
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The observance of the tenth anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women takes place today. This convention on women is one of the most important legal instrument for the establishment of true gender equality worldwide
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Education
 Reorganising Degree Courses for Improvement of Teaching
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Dhaka Day by Day



Let the youngsters go abroad after undergraduate level, says Dr Zillur Rahman Khan
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Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation meeting begins in Dhaka
 More than 43,000 people are employed in 4,300 waste collection centres in Dhaka city, says a survey report
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NEWS BRIEFS

Friendship Bridge foundation today

Foundation of the Second Bangladesh-Japan Friendship Bridge on Dhaka-Chittagong highway will be laid today by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

Indo-Pak truce accord

ISLAMABAD, Sept 2: Pakistan and India agreed today to enforce a ceasefire along their common frontier in Kashmir after clashes that left more than 50 dead in less than a week, reports AFP.

8 killed in Pak blast

QUETTA, Sept 2: A bomb exploded on a passenger train near the border with Afghanistan on Monday afternoon, killing at least eight passengers and injuring 27, authorities said. The train was travelling from the border town of Chaman to Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan province, railway officials said, reports AP.

Gorbachev's powers seriously curbed

Seven-point plan to stop Soviet disintegration

MOSCOW, Sept 2: Communist Party hardliners reeled from a constitutional coup today as a rescue plan for the country worked out by republican leaders and Mikhail Gorbachev was approved by all the republics except for the three Baltics, reports AFP.

The plan, which, if formally adopted, would result in the current parliament's dissolution, aims to prevent the country from disintegrating in the wake of the failed coup.

The seven-point plan worked out by the Soviet President and the leaders of 10 of the 15 republics at a marathon session on Sunday, were outlined to the 2,250-member Congress of People's Deputies by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Gorbachev has until now generally delivered the opening speech to the Congress.

The plan clearly caught the conservative-dominated parliament by surprise, as Nazarbayev said that the Congress should only meet for three days to approve new transitional state structures in the wake of the failed coup
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Soviet President Gorbachev checks his watch while sitting next to Russian President Yeltsin on Monday during an extraordinary meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies.
 —AFP photo

US recognises independence of Baltic republics

KENNEBUNKPORT (Maine), Sept 2: President George Bush, after days of hesitation, announced Monday U. S. diplomatic recognition of the independence of the Baltic republics, reports agencies.

"The United States has always supported the independence of the Baltic states and is pleased immediately to establish diplomatic relations with their governments," Bush said.

He made the announcement at a news conference on the final day of his summer vacation.

Earlier, Bush telephoned

Latvian President Anatoly Gorbunov and said he was about to recognise Latvia as an independent state and establish diplomatic relations, Gorbunov said.

Bush mentioned that call in his announcement and said he also had called the Estonia's President.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were annexed by the Soviet Union in a 1940 agreement with Adolf Hitler.

More than 30 nations have recognised the Baltics since last month's failed coup in the Soviet Union.

Bush made the expected

announcement after waiting in vain for Soviet lawmakers to do the same.

Bush said he was sending U. S. officials to the Baltic nations to assess what medical and economic assistance should be extended during the difficult economic months to come.

Bush said he felt that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had made a "good statement" over the weekend in acknowledging the right of Soviet republics to choose their own form of government. Gorbachev on Monday was working with officials from
 See Page 12 Col. 6

Seven coup leaders charged with treason

MOSCOW, Sept 2: Treason charges were formally laid today against seven leaders of last month's failed Soviet coup, a spokeswoman for the Russian Prosecutor's Office said, reports Reuters.

They face possible death sentences if convicted.

The spokeswoman said they were charged with violating Article 64 of the Russian Republic's criminal code. There is no central Soviet criminal code.

Those charged were former Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, Oleg Baklanov, Deputy Chairman of the Defence Council, and Alexander Tsyakov.

Treason charges were also brought against the head of the KGB guards, Yuri Plekhanov. Similar charges are expected against the sacked Speaker of the Soviet Parliament, Anatoly Lukyanov.

Premadasa wins over party MPs

COLOMBO, Sept 2: Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, fighting an impeachment motion against him from dissident government MPs, today won a vote of confidence from his parliamentary group, reports Reuters.

At a meeting chaired by Premadasa, 116 MPs approved a resolution pledging their loyalty and support to the President, a spokesman for the President's office said.

The President's ruling United National Party controls 125 of the 225-seat parliament. Eight government MPs who have publicly said they were backing the motion, were not present.

Premadasa, voted to office in December 1988, is facing the biggest challenge to his 32-month-old rule, from about 120 opposition and government MPs who filed the impeachment motion last week.

Former Education Minister Lalith Aihulathmudali, who is leading the dissident group, claims that 47 government MPs have signed the document.

PM tells Bangladesh-Japan forum Ideal atmosphere for economic activities exists

Star Economic Report

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said an ideal atmosphere has been created in Bangladesh for the speedy implementation of economic activities.

She said the country was enriched with three forces which were directed towards economic development. These are, she said, political stability achieved through national unity and democratic practices, our workforce and commitment towards establishment of a glorious present and future.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum at a local hotel on Monday, Begum Zia said that there was paramount need of mutual cooperation between the countries of Asia because no state of the world 'is anymore an isolated island'.

The Prime Minister said that the wind of change was blowing all over the world and the people in general wanted to have a standard living.

Pleading for cooperation of all quarters to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people, Begum Zia said the present

government was committed to a market economy and would encourage the private sector initiatives in the country.

The Prime Minister said that poverty alleviation and employment have topped the list of priorities of the government. She said that her government was very keen to establish a sound base of cooperation for the mutual benefit of Bangladesh and Japan to accelerate labour intensive industrialisation to achieve the desired objectives.

Begum Zia told the Japanese representatives, 'you have capital and technology. We have set principles, conducive atmosphere and vast manpower. If properly trained, our people can adopt any technology which needs no explanation', she said.

She suggested transfer of intermediate technology from Japan for effective labour intensive industrialisation in Bangladesh. She cited garments industry where Bangladesh achieved tremendous success in a short span of only seven years.

Referring to the spontaneous support to Bangladesh

IMF team due today to assess pay-hike impact

A two-member International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation arrives in Dhaka today from Washington to assess budgetary impact of the recent pay-hike for government employees, reports UNB.

Officials said the IMF team would talk to the Finance Ministry to know whether the wage-hike would impede structural reforms in Bangladesh as agreed upon with donors.

The recent public pay-hike fuelled strong reaction in IMF and World Bank, and they sought justification of the government action.

In a hasty reprisal, IMF Board has postponed approval of the Policy Framework Paper (PFP), the recipe for the country's reforms programmes in the current fiscal, making uncertain the disbursement of 200 million US dollar in IMF
 See Page 12 Col. 7

Indian press for solution of water sharing, Talpatti, Chakma issues

By Staff Correspondent

Two major Indian newspapers have lauded the diplomatic initiative taken by Bangladesh to have a cooperative relationship with India.

Diplomatic circles in Dhaka believe that the prompt response of Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman to the invitation for talks extended by his Indian counterpart Madhabsingh Solanki has left the latter with no alternative but to reciprocate.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister visited Delhi in the last week of August. The visit produced two agreements on removal of double taxation, and a concessional state credit of rupees 300 million extended by India.

The Times of India, the largest circulated Indian English daily, and the Indian Express ran editorials on August 30 welcoming the "positive attitude" demonstrated by the government of Begum Khaleda Zia in resolving outstanding issues between the two countries. Both the newspapers suggested that as the
 See Page 12 Col. 7

Hearing of Ershad's ATP case today

By Staff Correspondent

Hearing in the case of Ershad's alleged involvement in the controversial ATP plane purchase from British Aerospace at a higher price, the third against him, begins today at the Special Judge Court.

The trial will be chaired by Sessions and District Judge Mohammad Habibullah, who also gave judgement in the arms possession case against Ershad.

The others accused in the case are former Ministers Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu and AHM Abdul Gaffar, and former Industries Secretary Mosharraf Hossain. All the accused have been summoned to the court today.

The trial will be held at the Old Warden's Barrack of Dhaka Central Jail, where trial of the second case against Ershad for amassing wealth beyond known sources of income is going on.

Hearing in the second case adjourned last Tuesday is also likely to resume today at the Special Judge Court of Mohammad Ali Khan.

Benazir alleges plot to kill her husband

By Staff Correspondent

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept 2: Former Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto said here today that she had heard about a plot to assassinate her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari, reports AFP.

Talking to reporters at Lahore airport, she alleged that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his son-in-law Irfanullah Khan Marwat, who is an advisor to the Sindh provincial Chief Minister, had
 See Page 12 Col. 6

12 killed in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

Twelve people were killed and 21 injured in two road accidents, one in Khilkhet and the other in Kamalapur, in the city on Monday.

In the Khilkhet accident, nine people were killed and at least 16 others injured, seven of them seriously.

The accident occurred, when a timber-loaded truck coming from Dhaka and a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Tangail collided and sandwiched an auto-rickshaw at Karia Bridge on the New Airport Road.

The driver of the autorickshaw died on the spot while five other persons succumbed to their injuries at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and three at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Cantonment thana police said.

The injured persons have been admitted to the CMH and the DMCH. The other victims were said to be passengers of the bus.

Six of the deceased were identified as driver of the bus Shahidul Alam (28), his brother Akbar Alam (30), helper, Kudrat Ali (15), Manir Hossain (50), Shantu (23) and Rafiuddin (25). Three of the dead could not be identified.
 See Page 12 Col. 2



A timber-loaded truck and the autorickshaw it rammed lie in a wreck on the New Airport Road. Nine people died in the accident.
 —Star photo

China says 'No' to capitalism as Major arrives

BEIJING, Sept 2: As British Prime Minister John Major arrived in Beijing Monday China's ruling Communist Party vowed to take its open-door policy a step further, but categorically rejected Western-style democracy and capitalism, reports agencies.

British Prime Minister John Major briefed Li Peng on Monday on his Moscow visit, stressing the sweeping political changes that have left China as the world's only major communist power.

Major's arrival Monday from a whirlwind trip to Moscow made him the first Western leader to visit Beijing since China's bloody crackdown on a pro-democracy movement in 1989 drew international condemnation.

Asked if the two leaders discussed the future of communism, the British official said: "The Prime Minister made clear the world was changing and moving away from communism. He made the point quite clearly."

After his arrival in Beijing, Major contacted leaders from all of the G-7 and European Community nations to give his assessment of the situation in the Soviet Union.

The British official said Major commented on concerns about nuclear weapons, defence expenditures and tensions between the Soviet central government and restive republics.

In Moscow, Major offered the Soviets modest economic aid and pressed for concrete

market-oriented reforms. Such reforms have stalled in China since 1989, when the Chinese army crushed massive pro-democracy protests.

"Reform and opening will not contract, but will be expanded even further," the People's Daily newspaper said in a front page commentary.

However, the official party newspaper said that at the same time China would build up its resistance to "peaceful evolution," the party buzzword for perceived Western at-

tempts to undermine the communist system.

"If we implement privatisation in economics and a Western-style multiparty system in politics, while wiping out the leading role of Marxism and Mao Zedong thought by implementing ideological pluralism, then the party and the state will sink into chaos and all accomplishments from 70 years of the struggle by the party and the people will be ruined," the People's Daily said.

"On this question concerning the life and death of socialism, we must have a firm position and a clear determination, no hesitation or waffling is allowed," the newspaper said.

"Bourgeois liberalisation will absolutely not be allowed," it added.

The commentary stressed that any reform had to be carried out under the strict control of the Communist Party.

The British leader touched on several international issues with his counterpart, Li.